



# RISK ASSESSMENT FOR SCHOOL TRIPS

Schools through their teaching staff have a duty of care to their pupils, the following information is provided to help you assess the risks involved with a visit to Park Hall Countryside Experience. Preliminary visits to Park Hall are free to anyone intending to bring a group to the farm. This visit enables an assessment to be made as to the suitability of the site for a school visit. The ultimate responsibility for deciding the suitability of the venue rests with the school. Farm visits play an important part in the education and development of children and should be an enjoyable experience for all.

## Potential Hazards

This list gives a general overview of the potential hazards that could be encountered on a school trip to Park Hall. Potential Hazards include:

- Car parks
- Water (the lake, stream and duck pond)
- Rough Ground (stony pathways, wet slippery grass, mud)
- Vegetation (woods, stinging nettles etc)
- Animals and insects (animals may bite, scratch etc- e.g. horses, sheep, cows, pigs, goats, rabbits; insects may sting e.g. wasps, ants). It is essential to ensure that children wash their hands after contact with animals, hand-washing facilities are provided near all the animal areas.
- Operating machinery- (visitors must respect all barriers)
- Tractor and cart ride- a safety gate is fitted to the cart, care should be taken when boarding and alighting from the cart, children must be seated.
- Old buildings- there are rough surfaces and slopes, care has been taken to preserve the character of the original Victorian farm therefore some shallow gulleys are to be found in the small animal centre.
- Victorian School: Wooden floors (small sloped area for disabled access), old desks,
- Iron Age Roundhouse: low entrance, care needs to be taken when entering
- Trenches- uneven wooden slatted pathways, low headroom under bridges

Please note: there are several play areas (indoor and outdoor) on the site. Use of these areas needs to be strictly supervised by teaching staff or their designated helpers.

## Minimising Risk

Discuss with supervisors, their role during the visit. They must understand the need to make sure children wash or are helped to wash their hands thoroughly after contact with animals.

**Please use soap and hand towels provided by the farm – hand gels and wipes are not effective.**

If any supervisors are pregnant they are advised not to make contact with sheep or goats

Below is a list of suggestions to follow:

- Discuss with pupils the rules of the visit
- Make sure pupils wear appropriate clothing including sturdy shoes, not sandals
- Check that cuts and grazes are covered with a waterproof plaster or dressing

During the visit make sure that children:

- Stay in their allocated groups
- Do not kiss animals
- Always wash their hands before eating and after contact with animals
- Eat only food that they have brought with them or purchased, and not eat food that has fallen to the ground or taste animal foods
- Do not suck fingers or put hands, pencils, etc. into their mouths
- Do not pick up tools unless permitted to do so by the farm staff
- Do not climb walls, gates or fences, particularly animal pens
- Listen carefully to instructions given by farm staff
- Approach and handle animals quietly and gently
- Do not frighten or torment the animals





## So that you can enjoy your day, here are a few simple guidelines to follow

Safety first- Some animals can carry diseases harmful to humans:

1. Please obey all safety notices around the farm and the advice of our staff at all times
2. Wash your own hands thoroughly, before supervising the washing of children's hands, using the soap, water and paper towels provided at the hand washing stations following contact with animals, after playing on the play equipment and before eating or drinking
3. Do not use gels or wipes instead of washing and drying using the soap, water and paper towels available at the hand washing stations around the farm
4. Supervise children at all times when on play equipment and when with animals.
5. Animals may bite
6. Height restrictions apply on various activities around the farm
7. Arms and legs must be covered and socks worn on the Drop Slide
8. Wash your hands thoroughly at home after removing dirty clothes, shoes or boots that have been worn at the farm. Any soiled clothed should be washed immediately on your return home
9. As a countryside location the ground throughout the site can be uneven, so please take care at all times
10. If you are pregnant or think you may be, avoid contact with sheep, lambs, goats or kids

## The Trenches

Please note the Trenches are not a play area

Children must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times

- Do not run around the Trenches
- Do not cross any of the soil mounds
- Do not enter areas marked as minefields
- Do not walk along the sides of the Trenches
- Be aware that the bridges and entrance to the first aid post are very low. Mind your head.
- The duckboards (wooden flooring) are uneven and slatted. Sensible footwear must be worn.
- Access to the machine gun post is limited due to the depth of the step.
- Please respect all 'no entry' signs, they are there for your safety.
- The Trenches are wide enough for disabled access.

## If something happens?

### Reporting an incident

All incidents should be reported to Park Hall staff at the time. The main point of contact is the reception desk or ring the Park Hall telephone number 01691 671123

### First Aid

Any member of staff will be able to summon first aid assistance

### Ambulance and Hospital

If an ambulance has to be called to an incident Park Hall staff must be informed immediately. The nearest accident and emergency hospital is Wrexham Maelor Hospital (11miles) and the nearest minor injuries unit is Cambrian Medical Centre, Oswestry (2 miles)

### Public Liability Insurance

CLA (Country Landowners Association)  
Policy Number: PARKH-2/SPO/B0573K006022011/  
B0573K006012011  
Public liability: £10,000,000  
Expires 19th October annually



### SAT NAV DIRECTIONS:

Postcode: SY11 4AS  
Village: Whittington or Park Hall  
Road: either Burma Road or North Road.

**BY ROAD:** Park Hall is situated on the outskirts of Oswestry. It is just 30 minutes from Chester (A483) and 25 minutes from Shrewsbury (A5). When approaching Oswestry stay on the A483 or A5 do not turn for Oswestry Town. Take A495 off the Oswestry bypass follow Brown Signs.

